

## 250 missing in Bangladesh mishap

DHAKA (R) — More than 250 people were missing from a motor launch which sank in the Dhaleswar river after being rammed by a cargo ship Tuesday, police said. Police said four bodies had been recovered and 25 people had swum to safety. There was no trace of the remaining passengers. The launch Hasali was rammed from behind near the central Bangladeshi town of Munshiganj. A salvage ship sent from the area lifted the launch out of the water. The river disaster came against a background of natural catastrophes that have devastated the poor nation of 105 million people in recent months. Floods in August and September killed nearly 3,000 people, destroyed three million tonnes of rice and left 25 million homeless. A cyclone Nov. 29 killed another 5,000 people and left a trail of devastation in the south. President Hossain Mohammad Ershad seized Bangladeshis this month to celebrate their national day with austerity. "In a situation like this, we cannot afford to be lavish."

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## AROUND THE WORLD...

### Arab League critical of Kenya

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League said Tuesday Kenya's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel was regrettable and disappointing. "(This) is a very regrettable decision... especially as the Kenyan government did not think it necessary to recognize the Palestinian state or even to welcome its proclamation," the league secretariat said in a statement. "The Arab League expected the Kenyan government would recognize the Palestinian state, which has won the support of most U.N. member states, rather than reestablish relations with Israel, ally of the apartheid regime," it added. The league said Kenya's decision was contrary to the resolutions of various meetings on Afro-Arab cooperation, including this month's ministerial meeting in Burkina Faso.

### UAE urges Iran, Iraq to seal peace pact

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) urged Iran and Iraq Tuesday to implement all aspects of the U.N. resolution providing for a comprehensive peace. "After accepting Resolution 598, we urge all parties concerned to fully implement it, in order to save the region the woes of war and reap the fruits of peace and coexistence," UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan said in a speech to parliament. Iran and Iraq have agreed a ceasefire but have made little further progress in U.N.-brokered peace talks.

### New OIC chief arrives in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Former Niger Prime Minister Hamid Al Gabdil has arrived at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) headquarters in Jeddah to take over the post of secretary general, the Qatar News Agency reported. He replaces Sharifuddin Pizada, whose four-year term at the head of the 46-member group ends Jan. 1. Gabdil was elected last March at an Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Amman.

### Storms isolate hundreds of Turkish villages

ANKARA (R) — Heavy snow and storms isolated around 1,000 villages in eastern and central Turkey, snapping power lines and halting traffic, the Anatolian news agency said Tuesday. Roads to some 830 villages and towns in the eastern provinces of Kars, Erzurum, Erzincan, Mus, Bingol and Tunceli were cut by drifts over 1.5 metres high and bus services from Kars near the Soviet border were halted, it said. In southeastern Adiyaman, a heavy snow storm brought down power lines Monday afternoon, plunging the town into darkness. The storm ripped roofs from scores of houses but caused no casualties.

### Evrin may go to court over scarves

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evrin may go to court in an attempt to stop women university students wearing headscarves seen as a symbol of Islamic fundamentalism, a spokesman said Tuesday. Evrin early this month vetoed a bill which was to lift a 1986 decree banning scarves, among other forms of clothing, on university campuses. Parliament returned the bill with an article upholding the ban on all non-modern garb while exempting the scarves and Evrin was forced to sign it after using up his single right to veto. The bill, published in the official gazette, went into effect Tuesday.

### Tunis okays fairer electoral code

JUNIS (R) — The Tunisian parliament has approved a revised electoral code which gives opposition parties new guarantees of impartiality. The main innovation are that opposition parties will be able to sit on the committees which supervise the distribution of electoral cards and that an independent commission of magistrates will take the place of parliament in disputes over the regularity of voting.

### Group says 3 fighters, five Israelis killed

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said Tuesday its guerrillas killed five Israeli military in a suicide attack on an Israeli barracks on the Lebanese border. A statement by the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said seven Israeli troops were wounded and three guerrillas killed in the raid Monday. Israel Monday denied it suffered any casualties and said its troops killed three commandos near Manara. The FRC said the guerrillas fought Israeli troops in a military barracks for one hour and a half before reinforcements, including helicopter gunships, were sent to the site. One of its reconnaissance units accompanied the guerrillas and filmed the operation, it said.

### Hirohito given new blood transfusion

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Hirohito discharged a small amount of blood Tuesday morning after receiving a transfusion, but by evening doctors reported his condition was stable, palace officials said. Doctors administered a 400-cubic centimetre blood transfusion early Tuesday when Hirohito's systolic blood pressure fell and his fever started rising. Imperial Household Agency spokesman Kenji Maeda said the emperor received a small amount of blood following the transfusion, but by evening seemed to be improving, he added.

### Abu Nidal group 'saddened' by Pan Am crash

BEIRUT (AP) — Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC), the guerrilla group headed by Abu Nidal, said Tuesday it was "painfully saddened" by the crash of the Pan American Jumbo jet in Scotland. A statement by the group's spokesman, Atel Abu Bakr, said FRC "extends its condolences to the families of the victims who perished in this disaster." The statement appeared to be aimed at rebuking charges that Abu Nidal's group might have placed a bomb on Pan Am's Flight 103, which crashed in the Scottish village of Lockerbie Wednesday, killing all 258 people aboard.

### U.S. navy warns of Gulf mine hazard

ABOARD USS FEARLESS (AP) — A U.S. navy officer warned Tuesday that mines laid by Iran and Iraq are believed to be drifting in the Gulf, particularly in the estuary of the Shatt Al Arab waterway that forms the southern boundary between the two countries. John K. Ross, skipper of the minesweeper USS Fearless, said during a briefing aboard his ship that about 180 mines were discovered in the Gulf since U.S. and other foreign navies intervened to protect shipping from Iranian attack in July last year. "I hope they're all gone, but I believe more mines are still here in the Gulf," he said. Ross noted that Western navies patrolling the Gulf had not ventured into northern waters, where Iranian and Iraqi forces were active until the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the war. "We've searched up to Kuwait, but no further. Someone has to check the Shatt Al Arab," he said.

### Afghan attacks claim 28 lives

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Rocket attacks on Afghan cities in the past two days have killed at least 28 people, Radio Kabul said Tuesday. The western Afghan city of Herat was the hardest hit, with 20 rockets killing 20 people and injuring four, according to the state-run radio, monitored in Islamabad. One person died when rockets blasted Kabul, the capital, the broadcast said. The radio said several areas in the eastern province of Paktia bordering Pakistan, were hit by as many as 300 surface-to-surface rockets.

## King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a phone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab scene and the region.



## Rifai, PLO team review developments, coordination

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and a high-level Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation held talks here Tuesday on the latest developments in the Middle East.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Rifai and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Abdul Razak Al Yahya also reviewed Jordan-PLO cooperation and coordination.

The PLO delegation arrived here from Baghdad after attending a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee chaired by Yasser Arafat which reviewed the latest developments in the new Palestinian strategy for peace in the Middle East. The committee voiced total endorsement of recent statements made by Arafat in Geneva.

A statement issued by the Executive Committee after the three-day meeting in Baghdad said in Arafat's speech and news conference remarks in

Geneva conformed with resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council last month.

### Symposium opens today

The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People Wednesday begins a two-day symposium on housing and organisational structure in the occupied territories. The symposium will discuss working

papers on the Israeli occupation authorities plans for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the role of housing in enhancing the steadfastness of people in the occupied territories and the finance of housing, in addition to the housing situation in the occupied Gaza Strip and evaluating the joint committee's experience in supporting the housing sector in the occupied territories. The papers also deal with low-income housing projects in the light of the Jordanian experience in this field.

## PLO gives full backing for Arafat strategy

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee

"Basically, we are not facing Israel... we are facing the unlimited support it is getting from its strategic ally, the United States," Arafat said after a ceremony at which he laid the foundation stone for a Palestinian embassy in Baghdad.

A statement issued after a three-day meeting of the PLO Executive Committee that ended Monday reaffirmed that the speech by brother Yasser Arafat at the special session of the U.N. in Geneva and his press statement there were in harmony with the PNC decisions."

The PLO's top decision-making body also set up a legal committee to report within 10 days on what form a Palestinian government-in-exile should take. The PLO branded the offer by

(Continued on page 2)

## 70,000 remain missing after Armenia earthquake

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian authorities have collected the names of 70,000 people being sought by relatives after the earthquake

there were still 400 bodies buried under the rubble in Leninakan.

In an interview with TASS, Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shcherbinina said 10,800 corpses had been found in Leninakan.

Eight thousand residents of the city of 290,000 were pulled alive from the ruins, he said.

His statements indicated there were fewer earthquake victims in Leninakan than in nearby Spitak, where officials say 16,000 people were killed, 80 per cent of the town's population.

Shcherbinina said authorities were solving the "employment problem" caused by the earthquake by offering retraining to those who could not find a job in their own trade or profession.

A senior Soviet official said

brought in to search lakes.

Investigators are examining whether the crash was caused by sabotage or structural failure in the 20-year-old plane, one of the first Boeing 747s built.

More than 600 rescue workers resumed their search for the remaining victims and for wreckage scattered over rugged terrain, dense woods, lakes and bogs.

Civilian and royal air force pathologists and a group of orthodontists were examining the bodies but expected to take another 10 days to complete identifications.

A suitcase and an unspecified amount of wreckage were sent

(Continued on page 3)

the bodies of some of the 269 people killed when the London to New York flight broke apart in a fireball over the small town of Lockerbie Wednesday.

A police spokesman said 240 corps had been recovered in a huge search operation in the Scottish countryside but 18 aircraft passengers and 11 townsmen, including three children, were still missing.

Families of the dead were told to expect the first bodies to be released to them Tuesday.

Another 200 troops were sent to join the 600 police and soldiers searching the hills and moors for debris that could provide clues to what caused Britain's worst aviation disaster. Divers will be

## Ghali: Israel must accept dialogue with PLO

## 'Mubarak visit contingent on Israel-PLO talks'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel must agree to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) before Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak considers a visit to the Zionist state, an Egyptian minister said Tuesday.

"President Mubarak is prepared to visit Israel if it is ready to start a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation," said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

He told reporters: "Egypt, which has always stressed the importance of a dialogue and direct contact between the PLO and Israel, will continue its endeavours to achieve this in light of the initiative by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Palestinian recognition of Israel."

Israel welcomed a statement last week by Mubarak that he might be ready to go to Israel.

Asked if he was willing to visit Israel if it would solve the Palestinian problem, Mubarak told Kuwait's Al Anba newspaper: "Yes, why not? If such a visit would lead to a solution of the problem and establishment of a just peace, I am ready."

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remains strongly opposed to talks with the PLO and Israeli suggestions to revive the Camp David formula for Middle East talks are seen in Egypt as a tactical bid to undermine Arab peace efforts.

"They killed it, and there is no way now to renew negotiations on the basis of Camp David," said veteran Egyptian diplomat Tahseen Bashir. "Nobody will

"negotiate according to Camp David today..."

Bashir, who is retired from official service, saw Israel's return to the Camp David formula as a tactical move. "They are doing that because they know the Palestinians are against it and they want to put the onus of rejection on them," he said.

Aides to Shamir said Monday he would soon unveil new proposals envisaging limited Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied territories, involving adjustments to the Camp David accords.

"Shamir is trying by this initiative to destroy the positive effects which the Palestinian peace initiatives have achieved as well as the beginning of the American-Palestinian dialogue," said a commentary in Egypt's semi-official Akhbar newspaper Tuesday.

The U.S. this month lifted a 13-year ban on official meetings with the PLO after Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist in peace next to a Palestinian state.

Egypt would like to use this opening to encourage Israel to join an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.

"Basically, we are interested in continuing the peace process which is going on, but not in reversing the process," said an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official.

"Israeli officials switched signals Tuesday and appeared to be trying to play down the probability of a Mubarak visit.

The sources said there have been no meetings in Cairo between any Israeli embassy diplomat and any Foreign Ministry official on a Mubarak visit, despite statements to the contrary by Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner.

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One of them, Sa'd Barak,

was dragged out by police when the presiding judge denied his request to address the court.

Shamir, Peres and Rabin are murderers of women and children," Baraka screamed, exploding in anger against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The worst clashes erupted in the Nuseirat refugee camp, a shantytown of 29,000 people in the occupied Gaza Strip, according to witnesses and officials at Shifa and Ahli hospitals in Gaza City.

Hundreds of residents poured into the narrow alleys to protest the shooting of two camp residents by troops earlier Tuesday and soldiers responded with tear-gas, rubber bullets and then plastic bullets, witnesses said.

The bomb, planted inside a garbage can, blew the lid off but left the bin in place. Police blocked off Jaffa Road for half an hour as explosives experts examined the site.

Police rounded up 13 Arabs for questioning, Levy said.

Also Tuesday, soldiers uprooted olive trees lining a highway near a Jewish settlement and imposed a curfew on the nearby

village of Beit Amin.

Four Palestinians withdrew

appeals against expulsion orders

before Israel's supreme court after the court refused to let their attorneys see secret evidence against them.

Seven teenagers were wounded in clashes elsewhere, including a 15-year-old from Gaza's Khan Yunis refugee camp who was in serious condition with a bullet wound in the left eye, said officials at Nablus' Al Ittihad hospital.

In Jerusalem's crowded business district, a small bomb exploded in a garbage can, but there were no injuries or damages.

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## Rebels stage anti-Kabul, anti-Soviet demonstration

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Rebels burned a puppet effigy of Afghan President Najibullah Tuesday and denounced Soviet peace moves at a rally marking the ninth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Rebels, activists and refugees gathered in their thousands on an inhospitable rocky plain near the Afghan frontier in northwest Pakistan, chanting "God is great" and waving green and white banners.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of one of seven Pakistan-based guerrilla parties, repeatedly called for the establishment of an Islamic state in Kabul and accused Moscow of trying to divide Afghans by holding talks with rebel leaders and the former king, Zahir Shah.

"A non-Islamic government is not acceptable to us. We do not want any government imposed on the people of Afghanistan," Hekmatyar told the crowd of 10,000 Mujahideen followers.

About 10 people, including men in military uniform, set fire to a red puppet effigy of Najibullah, hurled it to the ground and stamped on it until it disintegrated.

In Islamabad, Mujahideen supporters did not stage their usual anniversary demonstration at the request of Pakistani authorities, who barred such events during five days of talks between regional leaders.

In New Delhi, about 300 chanting Afghan refugees burned an effigy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during protests marking the anniversary of the Soviet intervention.

The ceremony in Peshawar was probably the last such demonstration because Soviet troops should be withdrawn by Feb. 15.

"After the withdrawal, the regime of Najibullah will be dismissed and Kabul will be unable to resist the Mujahideen," Hekmatyar declared.

The current chairman of the Pakistan-based alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani, has been visiting Tehran for talks with an eight-party group based in Iran. Rabbani met Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov in Saudi Arabia Dec. 3 and 4.

Last Saturday, Vorontsov, who is also ambassador to Kabul, invited the former king to join talks

in forming a broad-based government in Kabul after completion of the Soviet withdrawal.

Zahir Shah, 74, has lived as a semi-recluse in Rome since 1973 when he was overthrown by his cousin, Mohammad Daoud. Daoud was killed after the 1978 communist coup.

### Stress on Islamic government

Spurning approaches to the former monarch, Hekmatyar declared: "We want an Islamic government and have no need for those such as Zahir Shah who failed to serve the Afghan people during their kingship."

He told the rally it was a crucial time for the guerrilla alliance. "Now we are at a most important juncture. We must be very careful and should bring unity to the Mujahideen."

He said the rebels should not hope for too much in talks with the Soviet Union, whom he said were doing their best to prevent an Islamic government coming to power in Afghanistan.

The Kabul government has supported Moscow's talk with Zahir Shah, saying he could play a useful role in ending the guerrilla war, which has cost more than a million lives, forced thousands of Afghans into exile and caused widespread destruction.

The official Kabul Radio said Sunday that Afghan and Soviet leaders believed the former king could make a useful contribution to reconciliation, "serving as a balance between extremist leaders and the Afghan government."

Western analysts have said time was running out for Afghanistan with continued fighting and the Soviet withdrawal less than two months away.

In Islamabad, Mujahideen spokesman Abdul Rahim told a news conference the seven-party alliance was not interested in doing any deals with Moscow.

"The people running the war (against Soviet and Kabul forces) will, I am sure, take power in Afghanistan," he said.

He said a second round of talks with Soviet officials would be held in Islamabad, probably within the next two weeks.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE**

## PLO leaders back Arafat moves

(Continued from page 1)

PLO sources said.

Arafat said Tuesday he expected a Palestinian government-in-exile to include "personalities from inside and outside the occupied Arab territories."

He also attacked the Shamir proposal.

"Shamir must understand he cannot create a beautiful bride from a monkey... he can neither negotiate Camp David nor (Palestinian) autonomy," he said.

Two Damascus-based PLO groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), issued a joint statement Monday saying Arafat's recent moves did not represent official PLO policy.

But the Executive Committee statement "denounced the odd voices in the region which had been pushed into isolation by the (Palestinian) gains."

The statement did not elaborate.

At his news conference, Arafat strongly criticised an Israeli decision to confiscate any money from the PLO brought into the occupied territories.

"The decision is aimed at strangling the economy of our people, who have relatives everywhere outside the occupied land," he said.

Palestinians working outside Israel and the occupied territories "bring in between \$600 and \$800 million annually... our people pay 38 different taxes (to the Israeli authorities), an unprecedented example in the whole world," he added.

The committee's sessions were devoted mainly to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Committee members Yasser Arafat and Abdallah Hourani briefed Arafat and his aides on the opening talks in Tunis with the U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau,

Family awaits return of hostages

(Continued from page 1)

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Earlier Tuesday, a man who answered the telephone in Khaled's office suggested that stormy weather delayed the girls' arrival home. Several Mediterranean countries have been lashed by winter storms since the weekend.

"Abu Nidal has not been any-

where in Lebanon for quite a long time," said one source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I can't believe he came in all of a sudden just to

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**KING CONGRATULATES NEPAL:** His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to King Birendra of Nepal, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on Nepal's National Day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Nepalese people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

**PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLES:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad has delegated director of his office Turki Al Khireish to convey his condolences to the Abu Shagra family on the death of late pharmacist Subhi Ibrahim Abu Shagra. (Petra)

**HEALTH MINISTRY REPORT:** The Health Ministry runs 457 health centres attended by 461 physicians, and 17 hospitals throughout the Kingdom, according to the ministry's annual report. The report said that the number of citizens in possession of medical treatment cards is 2,488,449, distributed among the various governorates of Jordan. (Petra)

**TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA, CHINA:** Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday reviewed with the Yugoslav ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic bilateral relations in the field of transport and telecommunications. Also Tuesday Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr reviewed with the Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chang Jim scopes of cooperation in the field of agriculture. (Petra)

**THEATRE SEASON ENDS:** Ministry of Culture and National Heritage concluded activities of its first theatre season Tuesday by showing children's play Al Kitab at the Royal Cultural Centre. The first theatre season began on Nov. 27 which included four plays and four seminars on theatre. (Petra)

**HIGHER AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL:** The Higher Agricultural Council Tuesday held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry and discussed the council's new draft law, which organises the council's activities, terms of reference and expanding the base of the private sector participation. (Petra)

**LAND TRANSPORT TALKS:** The general assembly of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company is scheduled to hold its annual meeting in Baghdad on Jan. 10, 1989. The assembly will discuss the company's achievements, plans, and budget for 1989. The assembly meetings are expected to be chaired by the transport ministers of the two countries. (Petra)

**UAE ENVOY HOSTS RECEPTION:** UAE Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Jasem Shukri Tuesday hosted a reception at the Plaza Hotel on the 17th anniversary of UAE's National Day. A number of senior officials and diplomats were present. (Petra)

**CHINESE FILM WEEK:** In accordance with the cultural agreement signed between Jordan and China, the Chinese Film Week began Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre in the presence of Culture and National Heritage Minister Mohammad Hammour. This event is held by the Chinese embassy in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. (Petra)

**DEVELOPING DEAD SEA COAST:** The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is currently studying plans to develop the Dead Sea eastern coast. The JVA's secretary general has said that the current organisation of the region includes defining the touristic areas and setting comprehensive development plans in light of opening a new Zarqa-Ghor road. JVA intends to exploit the 28 million cubic metres of water available in the region for irrigation and industry in the south. (Petra)

## EC approves grant for agricultural projects

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The European Community (EC) has given the go-ahead for grants amounting to \$7 million European Currency Unit (ECU) (about JD 3.5-million) to finance two projects in the sectors of water and agriculture. The funds are to be drawn from the Third Financial Protocol of the Jordan-EC cooperation agreement, which makes available a total of ECU 100 million as loans and grants for technical cooperation projects.

The protocol gives particular attention to supporting food production and improving irrigation facilities for farming.

A grant of ECU 4 million will go to a national soil map and land use project designed to investigate the agricultural potential of the entire country.

This will involve a four year programme of land classification and soil studies, computerisation

of data and the preparation of detailed soil maps to be used as a planning tool in agriculture.

The project will be carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Royal Geographic Centre and a firm of British consultants — Hunting Technical Services — who were awarded a contract for the project after a call for tenders.

The second grant of ECU 3 million will finance the investigation of groundwater supplies in the middle and deep level aquifers in the Azraq basin.

The information will allow better management of water pumped for irrigation, domestic and municipal use in Amman and Azraq, and will help alleviate stress on the shallow aquifer.

The investigation will be carried out jointly by the Water Authority of Jordan and EC consultants.

## More suspected looters held

(Continued from page 1)

Monday to the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment in southern England "for more detailed examination to determine whether they exhibit evidence of a pre-impact explosion," Michael Charles, the top British investigator on the scene, said in a statement.

Transport Department press officer Penny Russell-Smith said the tests began Tuesday and might be concluded as early as Tuesday night.

The Times of London reported that the suitcase, noticed lying among wreckage, was ripped torn and might have been damaged by flying metal. The report said investigators "should quickly be able to establish whether those

marks were made by an exploding bomb."

Charles' statement added that although no evidence of structural failure had turned up, that was still being probed as a possible cause.

Structural failure or a bomb have been identified by experts as the most likely reasons why the plane crashed just as it reached cruising altitude over southwest Scotland Dec. 21.

Britain's accident investigation board said it had not yet found evidence of airplane failure.

The rest of the aircraft was being loaded on to 18 metre air force trucks designed to transport aircraft debris.

The wreckage will be taken to Farnborough, an aviation centre south of London, to be analysed.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- \* The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- \* An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- \* The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILMS

- \* A video film entitled "Chariots of Fire" at the British Council — 7:00 p.m.
- \* A Chinese film entitled "Two Spirits from the Jade Green Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Tuesday receives a student delegation from the University of Jordan at the Interior Ministry (Petra photo)

## Dajani meets university students; stresses importance of national unity

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Tuesday stressed the importance of national unity, saying that it is the most important component of a strong and coherent society.

Addressing a student delegation from the University of Jordan, Dajani said the coherent and homogenous society is the civilised society that can preserve the national achievements and that the strongest society is the one that can hold in the face of dangers, challenges and changes.

Dajani paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's wise policy which has won the King and

Jordan an international respect. He noted that the wisdom was proven in Jordan's solid and healthy stand and the moderation and political line that King Hussein has always been following.

Dajani pointed out that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, which came as a natural response to the suffering of the Palestinian people, under the Israeli occupation, has created a new situation and a new reality on the international arena.

The uprising has also crystallised new realities and has gained a worldwide public support embodied in the change of the

world attitude to the Palestine question, which has now become viewed as a cause for a people whose land has been usurped and who are demanding their freedom.

Dajani said Jordan is very concerned about the uprising because the people living under the Israeli occupation are a part of us, just as we are a part of them.

Dajani stressed the role of the self-educated and dedicated youth in making the future of their nation.

At the end of the meeting, which took place at the Interior Ministry's Assembly Hall, Dajani answered the students' questions.

## Public transport vehicles to carry annual licence

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Tuesday issued a circular banning all public transport vehicles carrying passengers from Jordan to other countries where they are registered or vice versa from passing through the Jordanian borders, no matter whether they are empty or full of passengers, unless they are in possession of annual transport licences from the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications and a manifest, issued from the departure and

arrival points.

In a circular sent to the various ministries and concerned departments, Dajani banned all Jordanian public transport vehicles carrying passengers from Jordan to neighbouring countries from leaving the border points, unless they are in possession of the manifest from the arrival and departure terminals.

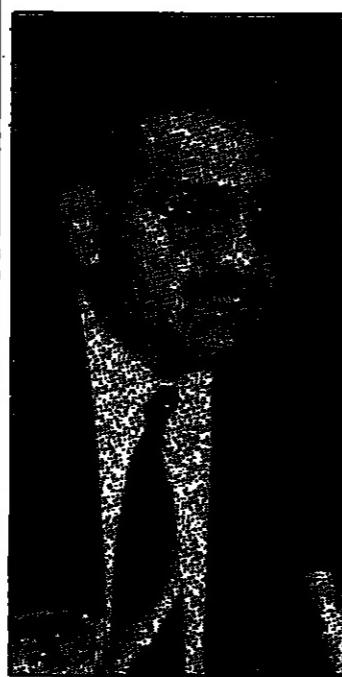
In his circular, Dajani defined the regulations governing the transport of passengers either by buses, coaster buses, medium

buses or small public transport cars. The regulations banned the travel and tourist offices and companies from organising transport of passengers by hand, both inside the Kingdom and to destinations outside the Kingdom. The regulations also banned the sale of land transport tickets.

The new regulations will be in force as of Jan. 1, 1989.

Dajani also called on all travel and tourist offices to rectify their situations before the end of January.

## PSD apprehends suspected killer



Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Public Security Department has succeeded in apprehending the suspected killer of Ghaleb Ashour Ahmad Mousa who was found dead a few days ago along the street linking the Third Circle with Naour road, Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said Tuesday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Al Majali said the investigators pursued their detection and search efforts to know the reasons surrounding the killing of Ashour after examining the site and the car found near the dead body, which belong to the murdered.

The forensic doctor's report said that the victim received three shots in his face, head and belly.

Following the investigations made by the police, it has been found out that the victim was suffering from financial problems and that he was involved in false real estate transactions, which caused him problems with others

including his father, who was one of the suspects.

Faced by the evidence collected by the police investigators, his father admitted killing his son and guided the police to the place where he hid the pistol he used for killing.

According to the PSD, the father said, he agreed with his son to settle their financial differences and while driving his son's car to an area located half way between Third Circle and Naour Road, the son stopped the car and left it after failing to reach an agreement with his father on their financial problems. The father followed him and shot him dead.

The committee, which is headed by Labour Minister Marwan Dudin, groups secretaries

## Amount of rain surpasses average by over 130%

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The very cold air front that has affected Jordan during the last three days and led to the heavy rainfall and snow fall in the hilly areas throughout the country, has now moved to north Iraq and therefore a rise in temperatures is expected, Director General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda said Tuesday.

Abanda described the weather condition in Jordan through the last three days as unusual and said that the Kingdom started to be affected by cold fronts and air masses as of mid-December.

Commenting on the quantities of rain that fell in Jordan Abanda said they have surpassed the general average by 130 to 150 per cent, thus heralding the beginning of a new agricultural season and helping to increase the ground water reserves and the reserves in the dams.

The highest rainfall during the last twenty-four hours ending at 8.00 a.m. Tuesday, was in Belqis in Zarqa district while the lowest heavy rain was in Jafr with only 1 millimetre of rainfall. However most of the Kingdom's areas received good quantities of rain and snow.

Dajani said Jordan is very concerned about the uprising because the people living under the Israeli occupation are a part of us, just as we are a part of them.

Dajani stressed the role of the self-educated and dedicated youth in making the future of their nation.

At the end of the meeting, which took place at the Interior Ministry's Assembly Hall, Dajani answered the students' questions.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General have recently said that the recent rains have revived the farmers' hopes of a good agricultural season and added that such rain is very useful for the ground water reserves.

The Jordan Valley Authority director general said Tuesday that Kafraint Dam received more than 7.5 million cubic metres, while Sharabit Ibn Hasna Dam received 2.3 million cubic metres and Wadi Al Arab received 8.5 million cubic metres, as a result of the recent rainfall.

In Ajloun, the district governor inspected the roads and main streets of the town, Ein Jaama, Ibbin, Eshtafeina, Anjara, which were opened for traffic by Irbid Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Jordanian armed forces machinery.

Tawjih exams postponed

As a result of the prevailing weather conditions and the snowfall, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday decided to postpone the Tawjih Arabic language examination, which was scheduled for Monday until Jan. 8 and fixed Jan. 10 as the date for taking the Islamic Education examination.

However the various agriculture department directors and the



Snow fell in most parts of Jordan from Monday night until the early hours of Tuesday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Population committee to elect secretariat

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The National Committee for Population will hold a meeting Thursday at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund to discuss the final arrangements for composing a general secretariat for the committee.

The committee, which is headed by Labour Minister Marwan Dudin, groups secretaries

general of the Ministries of Higher Education, Education, Planning, Health, Information and the Registration Department, General Statistics Department, the Armed Forces National Guidance Department, the Jordanian Women's Federation, Yarmouk University, Mu'ta University, the University of Jordan, and the director of preaching and guidance.

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٢٢ كانون اول ١٩٨٨ - ٥ كانون ثان ١٩٨٩

## Jordan Times

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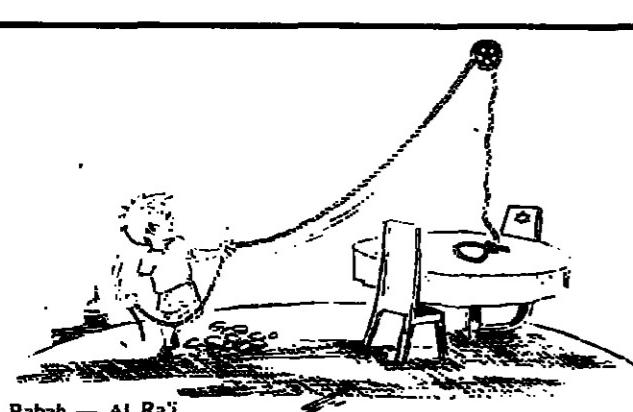
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## The wind of change

IT APPEARS that Arab efforts, notably the Jordanian-Saudi initiatives, to remove the last vestiges of disagreements between Syria on one hand and Egypt and Iraq on the other are beginning to bear fruit. Not only did Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak offered to travel to Damascus in order to start a whole new chapter in Syrian-Egyptian relations but also Syria's President Hafez Assad has made an equally positive overtures to that effect by signalling that Syria would no longer oppose Egypt's return to the Arab fold. On the Baghdad-Damascus front, there are also positive and promising signs that relations between the two countries are improving and that it would not be long before they are on the right track.

As the year 1988 comes to a close, the best news that the Arab World can have is to hear categorical statements from the three Arab capitals ushering a fresh start in the brotherly relations between them. If the two superpowers are on the brink of burying the hatchet, as it were, and relations between China and India are warming up in spite of the tremendous disagreements between them, would it be too much to expect from Arab countries to follow suit and emulate the spirit of reconciliation that is spreading all over the world. Amman and Riyadh were correct in persisting in their relentless efforts to affect a real rapprochement between Damascus on one hand and Baghdad and Cairo on the other. What is even better is that such initiatives are coming to fruition. What remains is the formal announcements declaring the restoration of brotherly relations between the states in question.

There could be nothing more momentous to undertake in the wake of the restoration of fraternal relations between all the Arab countries than to convene an Arab summit to crown the bilateral achievements with historic Arab summit decisions that could serve as a nucleus for genuine inter-Arab coordination and cooperation. It is indeed tragic to witness other regions of the world realising a sizable level of coordination and unity of purpose when the Arab states should have been in the forefront of all other peoples and regions of the world on the path of institutionalised cooperation and coordination. And now that the remnants of Arab disarray are on their way out, the Arab peoples can sigh with relief that finally the Arab countries are catching up with the wind of change in the world and are on the verge of emulating the experiences of other countries and regions of the world.



## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily wrote Tuesday on the start of the first Tawjih examinations session to be taken by more than 58,000 students who completed their 12 years of school work. This large number of tawjih students taking the examinations reflects the great achievement by Jordan in the field of education and serves as an indication of the real chance offered to all citizens to acquire education at all levels, the paper noted. It said that the examinations are the centre of interest for the students, the Ministry of Education, which prepared them for the session, and the families of students whose patience and support for their children are badly needed at this crucial moment. The paper wished the students success in their endeavours so that they can have a better chance to serve their country.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Fahed Al Fanek praises the efforts of those who prepared for and executed a symposium to discuss means and measures to develop the Jordanian badia region. But the writer says that the meeting would have done a better job, had it gathered the long list of recommendations in a handful of concentrated points designed to bring a real change and development in the life of bedouin tribes and the badia region as a whole. Again he praises that the recommendations which called for the creation of libraries, the construction of health centres and the supply of electric power to all parts of the badia region and bedouin settlements, but he notes that the most important thing is to create pasture lands for farm animals which in can provide additional income to the inhabitants, help them to settle down and enable them to contribute to development schemes in their own region. The most important thing for bedouins, the writer says, is water supply without which no life can exist and in whose absence no housing, health or agricultural projects can ever be executed. The writer notes that the development of the badia region is a national challenge, requiring contribution from all sectors.

Al Dustour daily Tuesday tackled the situation in the Arab World which it described as very favourable, creating a good climate for constructive and fruitful work. The paper noted that His Majesty King Hussein's continued contacts with Arab leaders to end differences among them and the Palestinian uprising which has entered the second year were both instrumental in bringing the Arabs together and removing many of their differences. It said that the end of the Gulf conflict has given the Arab leaders in general, and those in the Gulf region in particular a breathing space and a chance to meet and talk once again about joint and collective efforts to serve common causes.

## U.S. decision to meet PLO opens risky path toward peace

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — The decision by the United States to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has jolted the Middle East, almost as much as a war, leaving elation and celebration in the Arab World, shock and numbness in Israel.

U.S. Arab and Israeli diplomats and analysts say this sudden turn of events could, if handled adroitly by all the parties concerned, open the way for the first real Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations. If mishandled, though, they said, it could leave the Middle East further from peace than ever.

"We have just done something very, very significant, something that shakes the whole Middle East equation," said a State Department expert on the Middle East.

"We, the Israelis and the Palestinians are now sailing together in uncharted waters. We are going to have to feel our way along as we go, and move very carefully. The Arabs love us now and the Israelis need us now, so we don't need to rush. But we can't turn back."

The most immediate effect of the U.S.-PLO dialogue has been to force both Israelis and Palestinians to confront some realities that they have been trying to ignore. For a long time now, the Israeli government and the PLO have been living in their own imagined time zones.

In the PLO time zone, it was always 1947 — PLO leaders seemed to feel that somehow the Palestinians would be able to gain a state of their own without having to clearly recognise the right of a state called Israel to exist.

In the Israeli time zone, it was Dec. 8, 1987 — the day before the start of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the Israeli time zone, it was widely believed that the Palestinians would continue to acquiesce in the Israeli occupation, that the Reagan administration would support Israel to the hilt, and that the PLO could refrain from recognising Israel.

Such an arrangement would get the PLO into the diplomatic process but without requiring any more immediate concessions on its part. At the same time, it would get the Israelis to begin dealing with the Palestinians as a legitimate community, but without forcing them to face an immediate decision about negotiating with the PLO.

Sooner or later, however, Israeli politicians, who have lately been arguing over, "Who is a Jew?" are going to have to set aside that debate and decide "who is an Israeli?" Is an Israeli one who believes that Israel must occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip because the Jewish nationalist ideology, says so, or is an Israeli one who believes that Israel should base its borders on whatever lines and security arrangements will produce a stable peace with its Palestinian neighbours?

"We've come a long way in clarifying ourselves vis-a-vis the Israelis," said Sari Nusseibeh, a Palestinian professor at Bar Ilan University on the West Bank.

"Now it is time for the Israelis to be equally clear about how they see us. The United States cannot let them avoid that question any longer."

Arat has suspended Israel as a creation and extension of the United States — "America's spoiled baby." He felt it was not necessary to talk to the baby.

Israelis are digesting the new realities could come early in the Bush administration, according to American Middle East experts, when the United States is expected to revive its longstanding proposal of using West Bank Palestinians as a way of opening an indirect Israeli-PLO negotiating process.

Only to its parent, Anwar Sadat once had the same impression of the American-Israeli relationship.

The Egyptian president, during his first negotiations with Israel after the 1973 war, was fond of saying about Henry Kissinger and Israel's prime minister, Golda Meir, "This man is the only one who could tell this woman to leave my land, and she will do so."

Sadat eventually discovered that "this man" could only tell "this woman" so much, and that if Egypt hoped to get its land back, it would have to talk to Israel directly and in language that Israelis would find sincere.

That was the meaning of Sadat's trip to Israel in November 1977. State Department officials

said they intend to make it unambiguously clear to the PLO that the diplomatic train that Arat has just hopped aboard does not stop in Washington. Its destination is Israel.

"We will not deliver the Israelis for the PLO," a State Department Middle East expert said.

"This is the first time that the moderate lines has gotten real positive reinforcement from any American administration," said Rashid L. Khalidi, a Palestinian-American who is a professor of Middle East history at the University of Chicago.

"Now that it has, it just took all the wind out of the sails of the hard-liners."

But the new opportunities



## U.S. sanctions policy in Panama begins to backfire

By Katherine King  
Reuter

PANAMA CITY — U.S. economic sanctions against Panama aimed at ousting military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega are showing signs of backfiring, alienating a significant segment of American Jewry, and thereby run the risk of alienating the United States and a significant segment of American Jewry, or they face up to the idea that some type of Palestinian homeland has to be established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The first indication of whether

could eventually lead to some sort of job action," he said. As U.S. government employees the canal workers are not allowed to strike.

Even so, the effectiveness of the tax ban is doubtful. Yearly taxes from 16,000 Panamanian employees of the canal and the Defence Department amount to only about \$300 million.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

In addition, private U.S. companies appear to have found legal loopholes in the sanctions. Several have begun paying employees their gross salaries, leaving them with the responsibility for paying their own taxes.

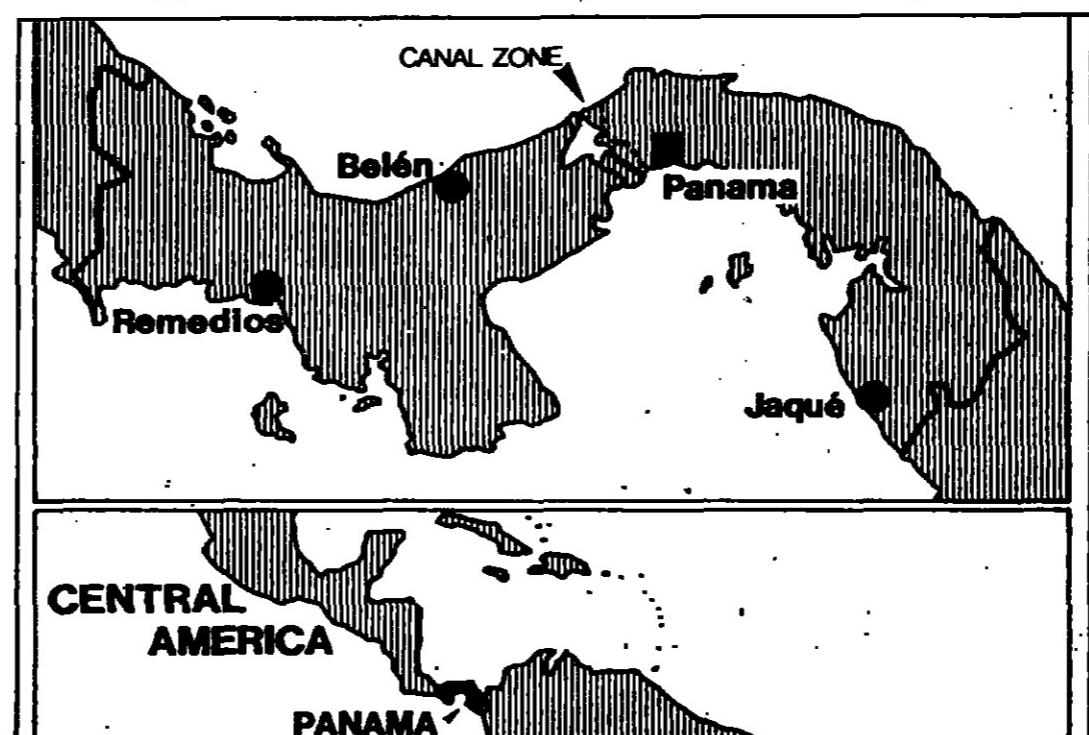
"Private sector taxes being withheld from Panamanian employees of American companies would only amount to about \$4 million a year — if it was being withheld, but a lot of it isn't," one private economist said.

Nevertheless, the sanctions have battered Panama's economy. The government has stopped all internal and international debt payments and can barely meet its employee payroll.

A White House spokesman this week said the sanctions were effective, "tightening the money flow to the Noriega regime, causing him problems."

But as pressure increases, government officials say they are even more determined not to give in to U.S. demands.

"Yes, the economy is in a decline. We may soon be at the



## Bonn caught between NATO needs and anti-military groundswell

By Mark Heinrich  
Reuter

BONN — "That was our life," mumbled Gerda Suetel, 53, staring at the rubble of her home demolished by the latest of 22 NATO jet crashes in West Germany this year.

Her bitterness, when she came home to find her house and neighbourhood in the town of Remscheid devastated by the crash on Dec. 8, evoked the growing public indignation over West Germany's heavy military burdens.

Many West Germans see no more point to NATO troops rippling up the land or jets screaming over rooftops to practise for war when East-West strains are easing and the Soviet Union is preparing unilateral troop cuts.

The German public is increasingly feeling more threatened by these manoeuvres than from outside," said opposition Social Democratic leader Hans-Jochen Vogel. "There's just no longer any reason to train as if we stood on the verge of war."

At the same time, they said the

suspension would harm the defence readiness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

But analysts say NATO's forward-defence concerns will have to budge before a growing chorus from West German citizens since Remscheid for curbs on alliance activity, above all low-altitude training manoeuvres.

"We've had a longstanding debate on NATO's flying practices. But this year civilian lives were taken in accidents for the first time," Gebhard Schweigler, foreign affairs analyst at a think tank near Munich, said in an interview.

Seventy per cent of West Germans in a poll released on Dec. 22 wanted NATO troop cutbacks in response to Soviet initiative in neighbouring Eastern Europe.

Manoeuvres suspended

Hours after the Remscheid disaster, which killed six people and injured dozens, the Defence Ministry suspended West German Air Force manoeuvres until Jan. 2 to contain public outcry.

On Dec. 15, Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised anxious

parliamentarians that his government should also have an authoritative say on the number of sorties flown by NATO partners.

Eighty-eight per cent in a recent survey felt the West German

government should have an authoritative say on the number of sorties flown by NATO partners.

But Bonn cannot control manoeuvres of major allies, under

terms of the 1955 treaty by which it joined NATO, dominated at the time by countries whose armies had occupied defeated Germany at the close of World War II.

Although West Germany

already ranks last in NATO in hours of low-level manoeuvres flown, one post-Remscheid poll found 89 per cent of Germans favouring an outright ban on such training manoeuvres.

About 87,000 low-level flights

— exercises below radar-detection

altitude — are conducted annually, 55,000 of them by U.S.,

British, Canadian, French, Dutch

and Belgian air force units based in West Germany.

A disaster at Ramstein air

show in August which killed 70

people, although unrelated to

reductions in such exercises in

response to the growing public

clamour over all NATO exer-

cises.

On Nov. 30, Bonn said it would

cut the size and scope of its field

manoeuvres by more than half to

minimise damage to citizens'

property and the environment.

NATO partners were urged to do

the same.

But Bonn's move surprised

U.S. and British officials.

"There are misgivings among the allies about the Germans' declining willingness to stand up and fight if needed," said Schweigler. "NATO can only defend if properly trained."

Young West German men are avoiding the draft in record numbers, another worry for NATO planners. More than 70,000 opted for alternative community service this year.

To counter allied doubts, Kohl called this month for a joint government-military campaign to bolster public faith in NATO. He warned Bonn would not let consciousness of the threat from the East slip.

"I think we're in a very difficult psychological situation," Admiral Dieter Wellerhoff, head of the West German Armed Forces, told a major Sunday newspaper this month.

"NATO's successful record has led to a situation in which people increasingly believe the alliance is no longer necessary," he said.

"The better our security policy, the harder it is for us to justify that we must stay alert."

"That's a real dilemma."

## Features

# Science in 1988: Looking into superconductivity, AIDS, physical properties

By Jim Heintz  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Scientists in 1988 scored some important victories in their fight against disease, disorder and ignorance, but they still couldn't penetrate some major mysteries.

Among the goals they sought — and possibly came closer to — was a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. They also sought a substance that would be superconductive at room temperature and the so-called "grand unified theory" which would explain all the properties of the physical world.

Although such research requires knowledge and mental agility far beyond the median level, one scientist in 1988 acquired a surprising degree of celebrity by trying to make it understandable to everyone. Stephen Hawking, a British theoretical physicist, wrote a witty book, attempting to explain theories of time and space in layman's terms. "A Brief History of Time" became a best-seller.

Broad scientific knowledge didn't reach everyone, however. At the dark end of the spectrum, a poll in the United States found that one in five adults still believes the sun orbits the earth, rather than the other way around. Only one out of three knew that lasers were beams of light rather than of sound.

The year's Nobel prizes for science went to five Americans, three West Germans and a Briton.

The medicine prize was won by Sir James W. Black of London's Kings College, and Americans Gertrude Elion and George Hitchings for their work in developing drugs to fight herpes, leukemia, malaria and other diseases.

The West Germans who won the chemistry prize — Johann Deisenhofer, Robert Huber and Hartmut Michel — were recognized for experiments regarded as essential steps toward photosynthesis. Americans Leon Lederman, Melvin Schwartz and Jack Steinberger won the physics prize for capturing neutrinos in a high-energy beam to probe subatomic structures.

### AIDS persist

No cure was found for AIDS, the baffling disease that destroys body's ability to fight infection. But many scientists were heartened by a development that may make finding a cure much easier. Doctors at several California institutions successfully transplanted the human immune system into mice, an important accomplishment because mice can be stand-ins for humans in immunity experiments.

The ability to transplant the immune system will let researchers more rapidly develop new drugs and vaccines, including approximately 50 experimental anti-AIDS drugs under development.

### Superconductors

There was a modest but significant leap toward the goal of developing practical superconductors. Researchers for IBM announced they had discovered a material that would conduct electricity with no loss from resistance at minus 234 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 148 Celsius). Its temperature is well above the temperature of liquid nitrogen, meaning that nitrogen, a relatively cheap and abundant substance, could be used as a coolant in equipment using superconductivity.

Superconductors are perceived as being eventually useful for extremely small and powerful computers, superefficient power transmission lines and trains that roll over a magnetic field rather than steel rails.

The speed of advances in superconductivity research was an issue at the heart of a controversy over whether the United States could actually build a remarkable scientific device for which the government has found a site, but not the funds: the superconducting super collider.

### Grand theory

The SSC is designed as a 53-mile-long tunnel in which atomic particles would be coaxed up to nearly the speed of light, then smashed into each other. By pulverizing these particles into even tinier bits, scientists hope to unravel essential mysteries of physics, including the "grand unified theory."

Supporters say the gargantuan device is necessary for scientific advancement. Opponents argue that the superconductors used in the time the SSC is completed because of rapid advancement in the field. Others say that with a minimum price tag of \$4.4 billion, the project would be little more than a huge giveaway to science and industry in the guise of scientific progress. They also contend that a facility at the European laboratory for particle physics in Geneva, Switzerland, could be modified to do the job.

### Space

Space programmes also are expensive, but were much more happily received in 1988. The French continued their string of successful launches of payload-bearing Ariane rockets. The Soviet Union, after years of deciding the U.S. space shuttle programme, launched a shuttle of its own. The Buran (snowstorm) made an unmanned flight and the Soviets said they wouldn't send humans up on a shuttle until they had assured themselves the craft wouldn't explode, as the U.S.

space shuttle Challenger did in 1986.

Shaking off two years of trauma after that explosion, the United States launched two successful shuttle missions in 1988. Meanwhile, China readied a rocket to launch from a remote site in Sichuan province, possibly as early as next year.

If space travel advances to the point of being able to send men beyond the solar system, will there be anyone to greet them? Canadian and U.S. scientists say it's looking more probable. Canadian and U.S. astronomers said their analyses of light from distant stars indicates these stars are orbited by planet-like bodies and that some of the planets might have earth-like conditions conducive to the development of more-or-less familiar life forms.

To find out for sure, they'll have to travel at least 90 light years (540 trillion miles or 860 trillion kilometres).

The age-old problem of paralysis found some relief through Roger Natan, an engineer at Israel's Ben-Gurion University. He had developed a system restoring some movement for quadriplegics by hooking electrodes that stimulate their muscles to a computer that takes spoken commands — thus the paralysed can tell their muscles what to do.

### Collision

Despite its capacity for good,

the space age

science sometimes collides with religious faith. In 1988, the most notable example may have been researchers in Britain, Switzerland and the United States concluded experiments which proved, they said, that the shroud of Turin could not have been Jesus Christ's burial cloth.

The shroud, kept as a religious relic in Turin, Italy, shows the image of a man who appears to have been crucified. The Archbishop of Turin said he accepted the conclusion, but Vatican radio said "the matter is not closed."

Hawking, the Oxford physicist and his colleague, Roger Penrose, were the subject of protests when Israel awarded them a Wolf science prize. Some orthodox legislators claimed their conclusions on how the universe was formed conflict with the Biblical account.

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vulnerability of computers upon which so many depend.

The other incident bespoke the spirit of inquisitiveness — even playfulness — that often is at the heart of science. Computer operators in the United States, Europe and Australia cooperated in a project to find the prime factors of a 100-digit number.

While such a feat is not out of reach of "supercomputers," it would take one machine about 10 months of constant computing.

Instead, the researchers divided the project into pieces to be handled by about 400 different computers during times when they otherwise would have been idle. Doing so took just 26 days and startled security experts and cryptographers, who had based some of their systems on the assumption that such computing was cripplingly time-consuming.

### Viruses everywhere

In the first, a "computer virus" appeared one day in some of the United States' most sophisticated computer networks. A virus is a programme that when run into a computer sets about reproducing itself so busily that it monopolizes the computer's capacity to work and overloads its memory.

The virus was blamed on a graduate student who made one tiny error in devising a programme, but the glitch demonstrated the extreme

# How to boil an egg — the official Swiss method

By Richard Murphy  
Reuter

ZURICH — Switzerland is renowned for its top-class chefs and catering schools, but that has not stopped civil servants from offering their countrymen some very basic cooking tips.

"Put the eggs in one cm (half an inch) of cold water in a saucepan with a tight-fitting lid. Bring to the boil, switch off the heat immediately and let the eggs continue to boil for the desired time. Et voila!"

This lesson in how to boil eggs the government-approved way comes from the federal energy department in Berne.

It is part of a new campaign, codenamed "Bravo," urging the Swiss to be sparing with energy in the kitchen and at work.

Newspaper and television advertisements suggest energy-saving ways of cooking eggs, meat and vegetables and recommend the use of pressure-cookers and micro-wave ovens.

Energy Minister Adolf Ogi said the focus on such mundane activities is intended to show how ordinary people can help to reduce Switzerland's 15 billion Swiss franc (\$10.3 billion) annual electricity bill.

"This campaign is 'Bravo' to people who are doing it right," Ogi told reporters. "There is nothing of the schoolmaster or the

wagging finger of the state."

Turning off the heat as soon as the water reaches boiling point will still produce the perfect boiled eggs, the energy department says. Indeed, there is less risk that eggs will crack while jumping around in the saucepan.

The department reckons that its technique uses only half the energy and one fifth of the water of more traditional methods.

"If every Swiss household has boiled eggs once a week, this could lead to a saving of 12 million kilowatt hours (of electricity) per year," it says — enough to supply a town of 3,000 people with electricity for a year.

Behind the fairly light-hearted campaign lies a serious purpose. Switzerland faces some difficult decisions about its energy policy for the 1990s.

In the past decade energy consumption has risen by an average of two per cent per year — too fast, says the government.

Both hydro-electric and nuclear power, which between them produce virtually all of the country's electricity, are coming under fire from environmentalists.

Their campaign has forced a national referendum, to be held within the next few years, on whether the five existing nuclear power stations which supply around 37 per cent of Swiss electricity should be scrapped.

The search is therefore on both for alternative sources of energy and ways of curbing consumption.

Finance Minister Otto Stich is not convinced that campaign Bravo in itself offers a recipe for success. He believes the Swiss appetite for saving must be whetted by more direct means, such as a tax on energy consumption.

"Appeals to save energy are not enough," he said in a speech this month. "A comprehensive energy tax would send a signal to the consumer in industry and at home to change his behaviour and would provide a lasting incentive to save."

Stich's proposals were circulated for discussion this month but they will take years to wind their way through Switzerland's tortuous consultation and legislative process.

In the meantime, the government hopes Switzerland's 6.5 million people will extend their concept of good citizenship into the kitchen.

"Saving energy doesn't mean giving up warmth, mobility or power," said Edward Kiener of the federal energy office. "It means giving up waste."

## Italian women, getting ahead, say men must catch up

By Frances D'Emilio  
The Associated Press

**ROME** — From police forces to television to business, Italian women are becoming more prominent in many fields that once were the strict province of men.

Women drivers now manœuvre Rome's orange-coloured buses through bumper-to-bumper traffic, which is directed more and more frequently by women traffic officers. Policewomen in high heels wave automatic rifles out the windows of squad cars as they escort ministers and dignitaries visiting the capital. Until 1981, women in the national police force were assigned only to cases involving prostitution or children.

An increasing number of women are anchoring Italy's prime-time newscasts, and there's a popular television spot of the new weekly show, "TV delle Ragazze" (the girls' television).

Italy's ultimate bastion for men — Sunday afternoon soccer — also has a new, feminine accent. A woman has joined the ranks of Italian radio's play-by-play commentators of the games, which are not televised live.

When Italy's first woman on the supreme court was named in September, she was asked what it meant to enter a world reserved until then for men.

"It signifies that women are present; that they're doing their job," said Maria Gabriella Lucioli, the new high court judge. She began her judicial career in 1963, when Italian law first permitted women to be magistrates.

"It's only a question of time" before more and more women capture top positions, says Marisa Occhionero, a Rome University sociologist who has done studies for the government on the future of women.

Professors at universities ... engineers, businesswomen, architects ... They're not content to stay in civil service jobs," says Occhionero.

**Women change, men don't**

"The (Italian) woman is changing. She has changed. It's the man who hasn't changed," she adds.

Echoing her comment were several women in fields ranging from politics to banking who complained in interviews that while they have made tremendous gains in the work

world, they've had much less success in convincing men to help take care of house and children.

A recent survey of households in 10 large Italian cities in which both spouses worked full-time found that men put in an average of three to five hours doing work around the house, including repairing and cleaning the car, while women did 33-35 hours of housework.

Says Carole Beebe Tarantelli, an American who is a member of the Italian parliament, changing sex roles is hard to swallow when you're an Italian man. "whose mother would respond to every whim." Mrs. Tarantelli's husband was an Italian economist slain by Red Brigades terrorists.

Newly married Italian men are often dismayed to find that their wives, working or not, won't iron their underwear like their mothers did.

"When you feel secure, you can poke fun at me," says Serena Dandini, one of the three authors of the new weekly show, "TV delle Ragazze" (the girls' television).

Despite the family's place in Italy as a virtually sacred institution, the way Italian society is set up often makes it difficult to run one, especially by working mothers.

Mrs. Tarantelli, a mother, notes that public schools don't have team sports or other extracurricular activities. That's means babysitters for children who finish classes at 1 p.m., five or six hours before parents finish work.

Stores shut down for three hours for lunch and only a very few are open past 8 p.m. in the Tuscan hilltown of Arezzo, factory workers' complaints that the only day care centre shut down before the factory closed promptly.

American women. They're not mentally independent. Even women who work think they have to depend on men. They don't value independence that much in itself," says Zappanico, who has spent time in both London and the United States.

Gioia Longo, a cultural anthropologist who founded a hotline for women abused by their husbands, says judging by a survey she did of 700 teen-agers in a small, Adriatic resort town, the young women of the next decade

don't see any limits to their achievements, but the boys are confused about their changing roles.

Stereotypical Latin males, says sociologist Occhionero, are afraid of these women. They want to protect them but don't understand to what point (and) they are threatened.

Stefania Zappanico, a journalist in her 20s, says many women don't help their cause.

"Italian women are still different from Northern European or

United States. But the Italian woman's (struggle) is especially hard" because of the importance placed on the family and the idea that the mother is the pillar of the family earlier this year.

Chores of a sacred institution

Despite the family's place in Italy as a virtually sacred institution, the way Italian society is set up often makes it difficult to run one, especially by working mothers.

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## Economic review of 1988

**Rich nations maintain prosperity while poor states remain poor**

LONDON (R) — It was the year when there wasn't a slump after all. Wealthy nations in 1988 continued their longest peacetime economic expansion on record in spite of the trauma of the "Black Monday" Oct. 19, 1987 financial crash. But it was not enough of a boom to drag the Third World, laden with \$1.3 trillion of debt, out of its misery.

## UNICEF

At year's end the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) smote the Christmastic consequences of about 25 children in Africa, Asia and Latin America die each minute from hunger and from illnesses that could mostly be cured with just a few cents' worth of drugs.

UNICEF said that to open the way to a truly global expansion "will require vision and leadership of an unusually high order."

Yet 1988 was also a year when anxiety again broke surface over how the quest for prosperity may threaten life itself.

## Pollution

Pollution horror stories bounded. Only one-in-five city dwellers were said by another U.N. agency to be breathing clean air.

Scientists said a savage U.S. summer drought was the kind of phenomenon that might happen often in the future because of the "greenhouse effect" — a likely atmospheric warning as mankind's addiction to burning petroleum and coal releases toxic gases.

Such leaders as the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose nations are branded as major polluters by ecologists, alluded in keynote speeches to the dangers of industrial and farm pollution.

"In a number of regions the state of the environment is simply frightening... time is running out," Gorbachev told the U.N. General Assembly. Weapons, he said, devoured money that might otherwise pay for pollution-free economic advance.

At home Gorbachev had meanwhile faced complaint in the streets about why his "perestroika" economic restructuring was taking so long to put more food into Soviet larders.

## China

Elsewhere in the communist world, China's effort to galvanise its economy by exposing it to Western-style market incentives created a new breed of socialist millionaires.

China also suffered annual inflation of 26 per cent in the year to the end of October.

## Industrial world

Inflation again worried the United States and others in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) — the "club" of 24 affluent non-communist industrial countries.

OECD economists in Paris gave the group an upbeat end-year report, seeing its 1988 economic expansion averaging four per cent and a fairly brisk 3.25 per cent for 1989.

But it would still have 29 million jobless. And inflation was rising, as consumers spent more money and a tighter market for skills pushed up wages. That may call for yet higher interest rates to brake the boom, turning the screw on debtor nations.

## U.S. and Japan

The OECD saw a fairly big risk of higher inflation in the United States.

And it was worried by the huge \$150 billion annual budget deficit which President Reagan's policy of tax cuts coupled with high defence spending will leave to George Bush when he takes office Jan. 20.

The United States, owing more than any other nation, was in 1988 still running up debt by almost half a billion dollars a day.

Interest payments on its borrowings from Japan (now the biggest creditor) and others meant that it would continue to run a big deficit on its current account, still up above \$100 billion in 1990, the OECD said.

That might unnerve investors and send "hot money" out of the dollar again to create a new round of financial instability.

The dollar, in which most of the world does business, began 1988 at all-time lows against the Deutsche mark and Japan's surging yen but it then held above those values.

The end of the eight Reagan years meanwhile seemed likely to see Japan flex its muscle as a financial superpower and demand that the U.S. give it more say in managing the global economy.

It put up new ideas on debt at a Toronto economic summit in June and is likely, Tokyo officials say, to replace the U.S. in 1989 as the biggest aid donor. Per capita gross domestic product already exceeds that of the United States.

Summit-watchers at the Toronto

Group of Seven (G-7) meeting also saw signs of the leading powers forming up into three blocs — the United States plus Canada, Japan with a role to speak for some other Asian states and, third, the European Community (EC).

## South Korea

But Asia's fast-industrialising "little dragons" such as South Korea also demanded a bigger say. Receipts from booming exports promised to turn South Korea, the fourth biggest debtor in 1986, into a net creditor in coming months.

## European Community

The EC made progress in 1988 towards a goal of abolishing internal trade barriers by end-1992 to become a true common market of 320 million people. And it promised the rest of the world it did not want to be a protectionist "fortress Europe."

But squabbles lay ahead. It moves next to working out how much sovereignty over monetary policy the 12 members must surrender. Britain's Margaret Thatcher said "no" to a European central bank let alone any kind of United States of Europe.

## Latin America

In other regions of the globe, Latin American leaders at year-end sought a summit with the West on what they saw as a socio-economic crisis over their debt which may threaten their region's fledgling democracies.

A U.N. report said Latin America's average inflation rate doubled in 1988 to 470 per cent. Output barely rose. About 85 per cent of its trade surplus went on servicing its \$420 billion of debt, most owed to U.S. and other Western banks.

And higher interest rates levied by Western nations to check their own inflation mean a spectacular rise in the net transfer of wealth out of Latin America, to \$28.9 billion, which was \$12 billion more than in 1987.

## Middle East

Middle East economies may be helped by firmer oil prices if a new OPEC agreement to curb

excess output from Jan. 1 can be made to stick. But the OECD doubted if oil prices would rise much — a boon for consuming nations.

## India

Elsewhere, while dry weather scorched the U.S. farm belt, the 800 million people of India got a break when excellent monsoon rains broke their country's worst drought of the century.

"The economy will march forward," said Bombay stock exchange president G.B. Desai. "Following good crops, demand for all goods is picking up."

## Sub-Saharan Africa

Rains also ended several parched years in sub-Saharan Africa to bring some relief to that impoverished region of more than 500 million inhabitants. The spectre of another famine withdrew from Ethiopia, although thousands died of hunger and disease in Sudan where there is a civil war.

Adebayo Adeleki, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, thinks the area's economy expanded in 1988 by up to 2.5 per cent after only 0.8 per cent in 1987.

But he said: "While any improvement is better than nothing at all, it is to us like scratching the surface."

Although the West found no new remedy for Latin America's debt, it did offer some relief on the debt owed to Western governments by sub-Saharan Africa. Creditors will make write-offs or extend repayment or offer easier terms.

Officials estimated the cost to taxpayers in creditor countries at around half a billion dollars a year.

It wasn't much in terms of the sort of money washing around in the Western economies.

## Biggest corporate takeover

JJR Nabisco Inc., a U.S. food and tobacco conglomerate, sold itself in 1988 to takeover specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. of New York for almost \$25 billion.

Largely financed by bank loans, it was the biggest corporate takeover in history.

**Reebok tops list of most profitable U.S. companies**

and a 37.8 per cent return in the last year.

Third on the list was Centrust Savings Bank, a Miami-based savings and loan company, with a 15.6 per cent return over four years, and a 6.7 per cent return in the most recent 12 months.

No. 4 was Anchor Glass Container, of Tampa, Florida, which had a 13.2 per cent return over the last four years and 5.1 per cent in the past 12 months.

In fifth place was Jepson Corp., a consumer and industrial products company, with a 94.4 per cent return over three years and a 19.3 per cent return in the last 12 months.

Forbes said the least profitable company in the nation was Public Service of New Hampshire, which had a 0.2 per cent return in the past five years, with a loss in the most recent year.

Because the rankings consider a company's aggregate performance over several years, some of the companies with recent profit declines or losses may still rank high on the list.

Rounding out the top 10 profitable companies were: "Microsoft Corp., of Redmond, Washington, with a 73.9 per cent return over five years and a 43.2 per cent return in the last year; Western Savings and Loan, based in Phoenix, with a 69.6 per cent five-year return and a 1.3 per cent return for the most recent 12 months; Pilgrim's Pride Corp., of Pittsburgh, Texas, with a 68.4 per cent return over four years and a loss in the most recent year; Best Buy Co. of Bloomington, Minnesota, with a 60.2 per cent return over five years and a 3.1 per cent return in the last 12 months and Chrysler Corp., with a 59.4 per cent return over four years and a 14.8 per cent return for the past year.

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**Israel devalues shekel by 5%**

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's central bank Tuesday announced five per cent devaluation of the shekel to stem a wave of panic buying of U.S. dollars and other foreign currencies.

He declined to give figures, but Israel radio said Israelis have been buying as much as \$70 million a day in foreign currencies this week.

There have been rumours for weeks that the shekel would be devalued by as much as 15 per cent, causing widespread buying of foreign currencies by people hoping to sell later at a better rate.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange halted trading early Tuesday to give the markets time to adjust to the announcement, Israel army radio said.

The run on foreign currencies is an effort by the public to make money by buying now at a lower shekel rate in anticipation of selling the currency at a higher rate after devaluation.

A devaluation was not anticipated until after the first of the year. Economists said further devaluations still were likely, in part to stimulate flagging exports.

Industries have been calling for a devaluation to ease a squeeze on profits caused by rising production costs and static income from sales abroad. The last devaluation was 10 per cent against the dollar in January 1987.

Shimon Peres, finance minister in the new government formed last week, has said devaluation would not help the economy unless government spending also was cut.

Peres is preparing a package of wage restraints, budget cuts and a devaluation to try to revive Israel's faltering economy, an aide said Monday.

Peres began intensive negotiations with trade union leaders, industrialists and treasury officials at the weekend on a programme to be announced in early January, the aide said.

The economy is suffering the most serious slowdown in three years with gross domestic product growing at a mere one per cent in 1988 and industrial production in decline.

Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno called in a speech Sunday for cuts of one billion shekels (\$625 million) to balance the state budget, a reduction in taxes and a drastic reform of the inflation-indexing system to lower real wages.

Bruno said Israel should bring inflation down rapidly to European levels of low single-figure. Consumer prices are expected to rise by more than 17 per cent in 1988, a slight increase on last year.

tion since the last devaluation.

Treasury sources said Peres was seeking cuts of up to 500 million shekels (\$310 million) in export and food subsidies.

He also sought a 200 million shekel (\$125 million) cut in defence spending, despite the extra cost of fighting a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, they said.

Peres, leader of the Labour Party, faces problems in persuading the Histadrut labour federation allied to his party to accept real wage reductions and a cut in food subsidies.

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**Dozens of Western firms sign up to form joint ventures with Soviets**

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Dozens of Western firms have quickly teamed up with Soviet enterprises to take advantage of new rules allowing joint ventures as part of Moscow's perestroika push.

The new partnerships, many still in the planning stages, may eventually offer Soviets a variety and quantity of goods and services not readily available in their underdeveloped economy.

They also may give Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev some of the Western technology, know-how, money and management expertise sorely needed in his perestroika programme, the drive to restructuring the lumbering economy to make it more efficient.

"The Soviets have much more to gain from this generally than Western partners," said Jan Vanous, research director of Plancon, a Washington-based firm specialising in forecasting economic trends in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"They need to improve their economy on the domestic side, and one instrument of course would be to improve foreign economic relations," said an official of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

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Chairman Renzo Gardini expects crops worth \$1.5 billion annually.

Some of the reported deals are:

— West German electrical giant Siemens has proposed a \$560 million joint venture to build an atomic power reactor. A German tavern owner wants to work with the Soviet airliner Aeroflot on an airport duty-free shop.

— The British joint venture Rank Xerox plans to team up

with the Soviet state publishing group FTO Vneshtorgizdat for a photocopying shop in Moscow. The deal is worth less than \$1.8 million.

— A consortium led by Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. has agreed to conduct feasibility studies on a proposed \$5 billion chemical project in Western Siberia. The project would involve building 15 chemical plants. Another Japanese company, Raduga, is interested in sports and health centres.

— Spain's Telefonica De Espana will make telephones with the Soviet Ministry for Production of Communication media at a factory in the Ural mountains. Another Spanish firm, Kelme, has joined with the Soviet State Committee for Sports to turn out sports shoes in Leningrad, Kiev and outside Moscow.

— In Italy, Ente Nazionale Idrocarbur's Enichem is considering two petrochemical joint ventures, including a \$6 billion project with Occidental Petroleum and two other international partners.

The Italian clothing chain Steffan wants to open two shops in Leningrad. And the agricultural concern Ferruzzi has agreed to build an agri-industrial prototype on 1.2 million acres (466,000 hectares) of Ukrainian farmland.

The company's role could range from providing seed and fertiliser to roads and processing plants.

Chairman Renzo Gardini expects crops worth \$1.5 billion annually.

Finnair, the Finnish airline,

has signed up with the Soviet tourist agency Inturist on a hotel project for foreign visitors. Ireland's Aer Rianta wants to work with the Soviet airliner Aeroflot on an airport duty-free shop.

— The British joint venture Rank Xerox plans to open a restaurant in

Moscow.

There's no indication how many of the partnerships have actually begun operations, but analysts believe the number is small and their investments are limited.

According to reports cited by analysts, about 500 million rubles — roughly \$830 million — has been committed in capital by both Soviet and foreign partners.

An estimated one-third of the total has been put up by the West.

Ralph Land, a general manager of Britain's Rank Xerox, said negotiations to open the photocopying shop in Moscow were lengthy.

"We didn't always speak the same language," he said. "I'm not talking about English and Russian. Our concept of profitability, our concept of cash flow, our concept of depreciation were different."

Dutch electronics giant Philips has no plans to follow others' lead.

"Joint ventures are like marriages — you got to know each other very well before you plunge into it," said spokesman Jan Van Schagen. "Right now, Philips and the Soviet Union aren't even engaged."

The Soviet Union issued a decree on Jan. 13, 1987 — and legislation was approved months later — permitting the formation of joint ventures with foreign partners.

Only about two dozen were registered in 1987, but the campaign picked up in 1988.

Indeed, Vanous said some Western exporters have been encouraged to set up the operations as part of continuing their business with Moscow.

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28, 1988 7

## Brooks — the pocket dynamo

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP) — When Scott Brooks comes out for pre-game warm-ups, he looks more like a ballboy than a National Basketball Association player.

When he graduated from high school, Brooks received only one scholarship offer. And when his college career was over, he was ignored by most professional scouts.

The 5-foot-11 (205.7) centimetre bundle of energy has battered his way to a spot on the Philadelphia 76ers roster and become a favourite with the city's basketball fans.

The 76ers have been a favourite of the 165-pound (75 kilogramme) Brooks, a native of California, since childhood.

"Even though I grew up in California, the 76ers were my team," he said. "Julius Erving was my hero and I've always been a sixer fan. To be playing for them now is just terrific."

Making it to the NBA has not been easy, and Brooks admits he was very fortunate just to get a college scholarship.

"The only offer I got was from Texas Christian, and that was really by luck," Brooks said. "A former assistant at TCU was coaching at local high school and he recommended me."

Brooks eventually transferred to the University of California at Irvine, and put together two productive seasons. In his senior year, he averaged 23.8, and was second in the nation in 3-point goals per game.

He was named Cal-Irvine's outstanding athlete for 1986-87, but the NBA scouts didn't show

interest in him. Finally, through the urging of then-assistant coach Jimmy Lynam, the 76ers invited him to attend their camp as a free agent.

"Jimmy Lynam saw him play in the Los Angeles Summer League and was intrigued by his hustle and ability," Philadelphia general manager John Nash said.

Jimmy also talked to (UNLV coach) Jerry Tarkanian about him. Brooks had 44 points against his team. Tark said they didn't have anybody who could stop him."

He played well at camp last year but a leg injury and a surplus of guards resulted in his release. He joined the Albany Patroons of the Continental Basketball Association and, according to Brooks, it was the best decision he could have made:

"I was very fortunate to get hooked up with Albany," he said. "It was a great team with an excellent coach and the fans were outstanding. It was a great experience for me."

He was referring to Bill Muselman, who will coach the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves next season. "He demands that you play your hardest at all times and as a result everybody benefits."

Albany won the CBA championship with Brooks scoring 8.7 per game, and leading the team in assists and steals. He also connected on 25 of 76 3-point attempts.

Once again, he was invited to camp by Philadelphia, where Lynam had succeeded Matt Guokas as head coach.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### PLAY TO THE END

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH:  
♦ A 8 5 2  
♥ Q 6 2  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ A 7 3

WEST: EAST

♦ 6 ♠ 10 9 8 7 5 ♡ J 4 3

Q 8 2 ♠ 10 9 6 3 ♡ J 8 4

♦ Q 10 9 6 ♠ J 8 4

SOUTH: ♠ K 9 7 3  
♥ Q A K  
♦ Q A 7  
♣ K 5 2

OPENING LEAD: Ten of ♦

What would you rather take: The percentage play in a suit, or a sure-trick line that will deliver the whole kit and caboodle? The two can be equally exclusive.

North's jump to three no trump, by partnership agreement, showed a hand forcing raise in spades. With so many prime cards and first-or-second-round control of every suit, South decided that there should be reasonable play for slam, and he got there by the most direct

route.

This hand cropped up in a team game, and the slam was bid at both tables. At one declarer won the heart lead and cashed the ace-king of trumps. When he recovered he had a trump loser, he fell back on the diamond finesse for his slam. That failed, and declarer moaned about his bad "luck."

At the other table, declarer proved that fortune had nothing to do with it. He won the heart lead and cashed his remaining high heart. A trump to the ace provided the entry to dummy for declarer to take a club discolor on the queen of hearts.

King, ace and a club ruff completed the groundwork for an endplay. Declarer crossed to the king of diamonds and led a trump. When East produced the ten, declarer finessed the jack, not caring whether it won or lost.

If it won, declarer would be on a diamond finesse for an overtrick. If it lost, all the trumps would be out and West would find himself in an unavoidable position. A diamond lead would be into declarer's tenace; a heart or club lead would permit a ruff-suff. Either way, the slam would be in the bag.

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## Southern Africa leaders urge end to U.S. aid for UNITA

LUSAKA (R) — Southern African leaders meeting Tuesday urged U.S. President-elect George Bush to end support for Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels in Angola.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, chairman of the six frontline states, opened a one-day meeting in Lusaka called to review the regional situation since the signing of accords last week on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia.

"We hope that President-elect Bush will declare to our satisfaction that his administration will not continue to support bandits for our economies."

So far the United States, which arranged the peace talks, has made it clear its aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) will continue until the Angolan government reaches a settlement

with Savimbi.

"While the United States chaired the meetings, we cannot forget it was the Reagan administration which brought about the linkage of Cuban troops to Namibia's independence," Kaunda said.

"They will merely be undoing the wrong they did to all of us... we want to be left alone, we want aid not for supporting bandits but for our economies."

Heads of state from Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe arrived for the meeting. Oliver Tambo, president of the South African black nationalist movement African National Congress (ANC), and South West Africa People's Orga-

nisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma, an important figure in Namibian independence, were also present.

### Appeal to U.N.

Kaunda called on U.S. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement the U.N. peace plan for Namibia without being influenced by pressure from Security Council members to cut the size of a planned monitoring force.

Kaunda said Perez de Cuellar should "not get daunted by what others who are more powerful than us are saying at the moment."

The council's five permanent members — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — are urging a reduction in the size of the proposed force of 7,500 troops, which will be deployed in Namibia April 1

when the countdown to independence begins.

Diplomats said Kaunda's words reflected regional fears that South Africa would use its powerful presence to influence the result of the territory's pre-independence elections.

Signs have grown in recent months that the frontline states are having difficulty forging a common strategy towards South Africa as the peace talks in southern Africa have moved ahead.

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, whose country has been virtually paralysed by the activities of South African-backed rebels since 1980, broke a taboo by meeting President P.W. Botha in September.

South Africa is now giving military aid to Mozambique to help fight the rebels which it once supported and which neutral observers believe still have links to Pretoria's military intelligence.



Mourners gather at the grave of one of the more than 55,000 victims of the earthquake that hit Soviet Armenia Dec. 7.

## COLUMN

### Braille through the feet

LONDON (AP) — British scientists say they are developing braille through-the-feet to help blind people avoid hazards like lamp posts, road signs and trash cans and show them where to cross roads and find platform edges at train stations. The blind will "read" the warnings by reading on specially laid blister-type surfaces, said the transport and road research laboratory in Crowthorne, 64 kilometres southwest of London. The system of lettering by embossed dots that can be felt through the finger tips was invented by Frenchman Louis Braille in 1829.

### Message of peace, USA to U.S.S.R.

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S. businessman is collecting signatures from Americans for what he calls "America's greeting card to Russia." James Lawlor of Iowa has been deterred by cold and blowing snow across the Midwest United States in his

eight-city tour to collect 2 million signatures. The scroll-like Christmas card is 13.7 metres by 3.6 metres. Lawlor, who owns a safetyoggle manufacturing company, said he woke up one morning early this month with the idea of sending a message of peace ... from one superpower to another." The card says in Russian: Dear Mr. (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev, we citizens of the United States of America wish to extend to you and the people of the Soviet Union our great appreciation for your courage and dedication in bringing peace to the world. Merry Christmas."

### John Bush's visit

U.S. President-elect George Bush's son and grandson returned to the United States from Armenia Monday, with the younger Bush saying the visit enabled him to feel the real meaning of Christmas.

John E. Bush and his son, George, 12, had flown to the Armenian capital of Yerevan on a relief flight Friday. They toured the disaster zone in a bus, stopping at a children's hospital to deliver candy bars and gifts.

"I think we did some good for our country," the elder Bush said from John F. Kennedy International Airport. Of the earthquake victims, he said, "we're doing good for them in a specific way, so I was privileged."

Their flight was organised by Americas, a relief organisation in New Canaan, Connecticut. Steve Johnson, a vice president of Americas, said the flight carried about \$3 million worth of supplies, mostly medical.

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Meanwhile, in neighbouring Armenia, earthquake survivors and emergency workers shivered in tents and unheated buildings Monday as a blizzard cut roads into the area, according to *Izvestia*, the official government newspaper.

Freezing temperatures dropped sharply and were expected to reach minus 15 degrees Celsius (5 F), Soviet television reported. Campfires and emergency stoves were providing the only warmth, because steam-generating plants that heated the cities were destroyed in the Dec. 7 earthquake.

Despite the weather, survivors continued to search for missing relatives among the dead, the wounded, and the displaced.

One widowed father tracked down his infant son, who was only five days old when the quake destroyed the Leninakan maternity hospital where he was born, killing everyone but him. Dug from the ruins after being buried for two days and nights, the baby boy was still wearing a wrist name tag, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported.

Pravda blamed Azerbaijanis thugs and government officials protecting them for inciting the ethnic strife to cover up corruption.

Oganee Gevorkyan's father found him in a Yerevan hospital with a broken arm and leg.

Tens of thousands of Armenians fled Azerbaijan in the

## Moscow pursues probe into 'incited violence' in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government has sent hundreds of prosecutors to Azerbaijan to investigate charges that local officials had thus incite ethnic violence against Armenians to cover up corruption, Pravda said Monday.

Pravda, the Soviet Union's official Communist Party newspaper, also reported that the fleeing Communist Party chief of Azerbaijan's Kedabek region had been captured by a military patrol after it fired at his car to stop him. The newspaper did not give the official's name, but said he was found to be carrying cash equivalent to several years of his salary.

In Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, 213 party members have been disciplined for failing to cool ethnic violence aimed at the Armenian minority, Pravda said.

Thirteen members were expelled from the party and 121 other people held responsible for permitting the violence were fired from their jobs, the newspaper said.

Pravda blamed Azerbaijani thugs and government officials protecting them for inciting the ethnic strife to cover up corruption.

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## Chinese students on anti-African footing after clashes in Nanking

PEKING (R) — Chinese students marched through the streets of Nanking Tuesday for the second successive day calling for tough measures against African students after weekend racial violence.

Their protest followed the arrival in the East China city of Peking-based diplomats from 12 African countries to meet more than 130 students who had fled their dormitories after a series of weekend attacks on them.

The AP reported that the authorities were holding about 140 African students and six Americans in a Nanking hotel after the clashes.

Several truckloads of police patrolled the city, Americans said.

Westerners in the city said by telephone that hundreds of students left Hehai University campus, where violence erupted Saturday night, and marched around the city centre demanding stern punishment.

"He is determined to restore public confidence by aggressively dealing with the matter of political ethics," Obuchi said in a nationally televised news conference.

An early-December poll in the newspaper Mainichi Shimbun showed his government's approval rating had slumped to 18 per cent from 30 per cent when Takeshita took office in November 1987. Takeshita himself had an aide who profited in Recruit-Cosmos share transactions, but the prime minister denied any personal involvement.

Appointment of the justice minister would be the key, said political analyst Tetsuro Moroboshi. He said the minister would "affect the investigation into the Recruit scandal."

### International trust

"I am aware that the public is losing confidence in politicians, business leaders and public officials," Hasegawa said in a news conference following his appointment. "It is a serious matter to rectify it. For Japan to be trusted in the international arena, we have to start with establishing a trustworthy political system."

Apart from Justice Ministry appointment, analysts said the reshuffle was a routine move and no significant changes in government policies were expected from it.

"An annual reshuffle of cabinet posts is a firmly established custom in Japan," said Seizaburo Sato, a political science professor at Tokyo University. "Takeshita doesn't want to upset the status quo," a police spokesman said.

"We don't have all the facts yet, but it seems that Christmas was far from calm and peaceful in South Africa," a police spokesman said.

A resident said rival mobs were fighting pitched battles in the

dents from leaving the campus.

### Order restored

At least 13 people, including two African students and 11 campus employees were injured Saturday in a clash over the admission to a dance of Chinese girls escorted by Africans.

Eyewitnesses said Monday that two black students were in hospital after Chinese, chanting "kill them," beat Africans studying at Hebrew University Sunday.

Some 2,000 to 3,000 Chinese students stoned stones and bottles, smashing windows at the foreign students' dormitories.

Most African students go to China to study technical subjects in lengthy courses lasting several years, during which few are able to go home for vacations.

In January last year 300 African students in Peking marched to the Moroccan embassy demanding to be sent home and refused to leave until they were promised better treatment.

In Tianjin in 1986 several hundred African and Chinese students clashed and threw bottles at a student dance.

In 1980, 19 Africans and Arabs and 24 Chinese were injured in a fight in Shanghai that began over loud music from a foreigner's radio.

Officials could not say what countries were represented in the diplomatic delegation in Nanking but students said their African classmates included Congolese and Zambians.

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Foreign affairs officials of Jiangsu province told reporters by telephone that order had been restored to Nanking, the provincial capital.

China prides itself on its good ties with African countries. Relations between the Africans and Chinese, however, have often been strained. Chinese often see themselves as openly racist, saying they find black people dirty.

The problem is compounded because African students in China are mostly single men, who spend up to six years here and want to date Chinese women.

"Chinese teachers and students think this is improper, especially with African men," said a U.S. student.

There is a great book on her. But I cannot sell the idea to anybody because all the men say, 'who is interested in a woman who made cosmetics?' A million women, that's who. And she's fascinating," Miss Davis said. The actress was among

members of the Los Angeles cultural scene who were asked by the Los Angeles Times what they would ask for if St. Nick was the ultimate patron who could offer a project regardless of cost.

### Davis promotes Rubenstein

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If Santa Claus were a movie mogul, Bette Davis would ask him to put the role of cosmetics queen Helene Rubenstein under her tree.

"There is a great book on her. But I cannot sell the idea to anybody because all the men say, 'who is interested in a woman who made cosmetics?' A million women, that's who. And she's fascinating," Miss Davis said. The actress was among

members of the Los Angeles cultural scene who were asked by the Los Angeles Times what they would ask for if St. Nick was the ultimate patron who could offer a project regardless of cost.

### 1988's most watchable men

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Donald Trump, Paul Newman and Mel Gibson are among the year's 10 most watchable men, a women's magazine said Monday. The 10 most watchable men of 1988 represent a variety of attributes that include attractiveness and success, said Suzy Mallery, president of the 15,000-member Manwatchers Inc. "They want it all, and this year's list has it," Mallery said.

"Big bulging muscles have never been important, but now dress grooming and keeping in good physical shape has become more important. But women seem to be looking more at looks," Mallery said.

## Rash of fires, violence mar S. African Christmas

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 28 people were killed in a Christmas flare-up of political violence in South Africa and dozens more died in a rash of fires, floods and family killings.

Policemen said Tuesday that 51 people died in robberies, rapes and murders, referred to as "ordinary crimes," in black townships around Johannesburg and Cape Town Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Floods claimed five lives and left hundreds homeless in Natal province on Christmas eve, four people were killed in two family feuds over the weekend and eight died in fires in township shanties and a caravan.

Traffic police said at least 59 people died in road accidents — eight of them in a single head-on crash north of Pretoria — over the Christmas weekend.

Police and civil rights monitors reported 12 politically motivated killings in the area Sunday and Monday.

A resident said rival mobs were fighting pitched battles in the

city's Imali township Tuesday following the stabbing of a senior Inkatha member.

"It has been a very bad weekend in Pietermaritzburg," civil rights activist Peter Kerchhoff said.

In addition to nine deaths reported by police, Kerchhoff said his crisis office knew of three killings Sunday and Monday that triggered a renewed bout of revenge attacks.

"One man I know lost a son in this war in July and heard today that two more of his sons, Sibusiso and Thami Thenjawayo, were stabbed to death over the weekend," he added.

"Men come home for Christmas, people get together and learn about their losses and all the trauma and emotionalism just explodes."

Adding to the misery, torrential thunderstorms sent rivers down in spate, destroyed mud houses and uprooted trees in Natal Saturday.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gorbachev reappears after 15-day absence

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev reappeared in public Monday after a rare, 15-day absence from public events and Soviet television news coverage. In news film of his meeting Monday with the head of the West German Communist Party, Gorbachev appeared smiling, rested and healthy. He looked shocked and saddened the last time he appeared in public, after viewing the carnage in earthquake-stricken Armenia Dec. 11. He also erupted in anger on Soviet television that night when asked about ethnic strife between Armenians and Azerbaijanis continuing despite the earthquake.

### Soviet cargo ship docks with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — An unmanned cargo ship carrying supplies docked with the Soviet Union's orbiting space station Mir Tuesday, TASS news agency reported. The Progress-39 vehicle, launched from earth two days ago, docked at 8:35 a.m. Moscow time (0535 GMT) next to the space research Module Kvant which is attached to Mir, the Soviet news agency said.

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